

Valley View School

(Therapeutic Boarding School)

CONTACT

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PROGRAM OUTLINE

Gender: Boys Only
Ages: 10 - 15
Grades: 6 - 12/College Prep
Enrollment: 56
Duration: 2 - 3 years
Founded: 1970



NATSAP Member

Since: 2002

Airport: Boston, MA (BOS)

Valley View School is built upon a model of a distinctly structured yet highly nurturing therapeutic milieu. The entire program is designed to meet the developmental and emotional needs of younger (middle school) adolescent boys.

Valley View is a private, not for profit, residential preparatory school providing a supportive therapeutic educational environment for 56 boys between the ages of 11 and 16. These are youngsters who have often experienced difficulties getting along with their families, the world around them and themselves. Typical Valley View students may present attentional problems (ADD and ADHD), mood difficulties and oppositional behavior. Valley View students may be boys who are not functioning up to capacity in school, are psychologically intimidating their parents, have difficulty channeling their physical energy in meaningful ways or may appear overly lethargic. The majority have had difficulty in traditional schools and although bright are sources of frustration to their families. Historically, traditional classroom methods and practices have generally frustrated rather than encouraged students who go to Valley View. These boys have been characterized as "learning disabled", "unmotivated", "hyperactive" or "disruptive" in the classroom setting. With a maximum of 56 students in the school and an average of six students in each class, Valley View School can provide intensive remedial instruction. Classes focus on the development and strengthening of skills in basic subjects, including language arts, mathematics, social and physical education, history and art. An extensive computer facility and Smart Boards in the classrooms integrate current technology into the entire academic curriculum. Valley View School does not deal with "alienated youngsters" including those with significant abuse problems and those who have been diagnosed as being psychotic.

Valley View offers a twelve-month program, and boys are accepted only on that basis. There are 11 full-time academic teachers, all with appropriate degrees in their subject matter, offering a college preparatory curriculum. Seventeen residential staff supervise the program on evenings and weekends. Students participate in a wide range of physical and recreational activities, including competitive athletics. In addition, three clinical psychologists spend a number of days at the school to see boys in individual therapy sessions. A board-certified psychiatrist also makes regularly scheduled consultation visits to monitor psychopharmacological issues where appropriate. The typical period of enrollment at the school is two to three years. A student can earn a recognized high school diploma from Valley View School, however diplomas are infrequently conferred since most students continue their education in a traditional public or private secondary school.

Individual Psychotherapy Available: Yes

Accreditation, Licensure: Commonwealth of Massachusetts, Department of Early Education and Care; Student and Exchange Visitor Information System (SEVIS)

Professional Affiliations: NATSAP - Full Member